

APPLICANT(S): STELLACCI, Francesco
SERIAL NO.: 10/688,867
FILED: October 17, 2003
Page 15

REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 1, 40, 49, 50, 52, 57, 97, 106, 107, 109, 111, 112, 145, 146, 177-180, 182, 183, 215, 216, 246 and 247 are pending. Claims 111, 112, 145, 146, 177-180, 182, 183, 215 and 216 are withdrawn. Claims 1, 40, 49, 50, 52, 57, 97, 106, 107, 109, 246 and 247 have been rejected.

Claims 1, 57, 246 and 247 have been amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 57, 246 and 247 can be found on page 7, [0072], page 10, [0098], and in examples 1-4 of the Application as published.

Applicants respectfully assert that the amendments to the claims add no new matter.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action (page 13), the Examiner stated that "the species of breaking the attractive force or bonds between the first set of molecules and the second set of molecules by using a solution having a high ionic strength would be novel". Claims 1, 57, 246 and 247 have been amended accordingly. Claims 40, 49, 50, 52, 97, 106, 107 and 109 depends directly or indirectly from claims 1 and 57. Accordingly these claims are likewise allowable.

The Telephone Interview

Initially, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner, Nelson Yang, for granting and attending the telephone interview, with Applicants' Representative on **13 May, 2010**. In the interview, allowable subject matter was discussed. Amendments to the claims were discussed, and these amendments appear in this paper above. The amendments to the claims

APPLICANT(S): STELLACCI, Francesco
SERIAL NO.: 10/688,867
FILED: October 17, 2003
Page 16

were accepted by the Examiner as removing all rejections under 35 USC §112 and under 35 USC §103.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 40, 49, 50, 52, 57, 97, 107, 109, 246-247 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, [second paragraph], as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1, 57, 246 and 247 have been amended to delete reference to "such as a solution". It is respectfully asserted that the foregoing amendment merely addresses matters of form and does not change the literal scope of the claim in any way or result in any prosecution history estoppel.

Applicants respectfully assert that these amendments render claims 1, 57, 246 and 247 proper under 35 USC 112 and request that the rejections be withdrawn. Claims 40, 49, 50, 52, 97, 107 and 109 depends directly or indirectly from claims 1 and 57. Accordingly Applicants respectfully request that the rejections to these claims be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 49, 50, 52, 57, 106, 107, 109, 246-247 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Guire *et al.* (US 6,514,768) in view of Liang *et al.* (US 2003/0148304) and in view of Pellicciari *et al.* 1978, Histochem Journal, 10: pp. 213-222) and in light of Miyamoto *et al.* (US 2002/0015800). Applicants disagree.

However, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants amended claims 1, 57, 246 and 247 to delete reference to breaking the attractive force or bonds between the first set of molecules and the second set of molecules by applying heat or by contacting said molecules with a solution containing an enzyme, or by applying a magnetic field. The Examiner acknowledged (page 13 of the Office Action and in a telephone interview) that the claims

APPLICANT(S): STELLACCI, Francesco
SERIAL NO.: 10/688,867
FILED: October 17, 2003
Page 17

directed to breaking the attractive force or bonds between the first set of molecules and the second set of molecules by using a solution having a high ionic strength would be allowable. Therefore, Guire *et al.* in view of Liang *et al.* and in view of Pellicciari *et al.* and in light of Miyamoto *et al.* can not render obvious Applicants claims as amended. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants assert that the pending claims are allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 50-3355.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: June 16, 2010

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